



**SECRET FREEDOM**  
PART 1 OF 4

ISSUE **41**

**SEGA®**

# **SONIC** **UNIVERSE™**



ENTER: **THE SECRET**  
**FREEDOM FIGHTERS!**

Tracy Yardley  
12/03



Welcome to the planet Mobius -- a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Harvey Who and Elias Acorn have joined forces to form an all-new team of Secret Freedom Fighters!

# SONIC UNIVERSE™

## PREVIOUSLY...



**The city of New Mobotropolis is under SIEGE!**

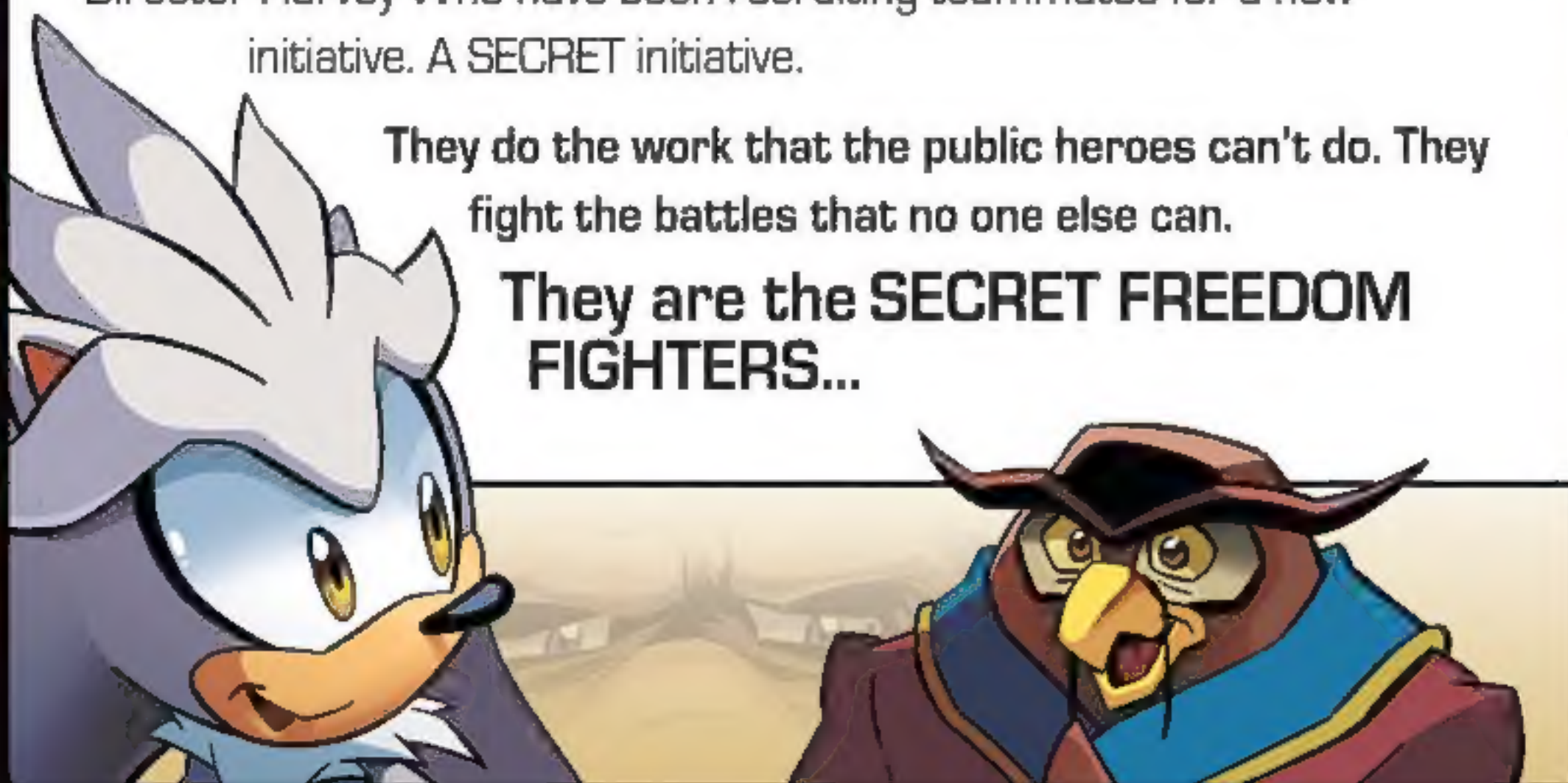
Sonic the Hedgehog's home city continues to reel following the devastating attacks of Dr. Eggman. These attacks have led to the destruction of the city's heroes, the Freedom Fighters.

To make matters worse, the city has also been attacked from within! The evil wizard Ixis Naugus, and his apprentice Geoffrey St. John, have usurped the crown of Acorn, and driven the former King Elias Acorn and his family into exile! King Naugus has used his dark magic to turn the tide of public opinion in his favor, but such an unstable and evil ruler has put the entire kingdom and its people in jeopardy.

But little does Naugus know, that in the shadows of the city in which he rules, there is a movement rising up. Elias and retired Secret Intelligence Director Harvey Who have been recruiting teammates for a new initiative. A SECRET initiative.

**They do the work that the public heroes can't do. They fight the battles that no one else can.**

**They are the SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS...**



## WHO'S WHO



**SILVER  
THE HEDGEHOG**  
TIME TRAVELER  
--CALL SIGN "ACE"



**SHARD**  
REFORMED METAL SONIC  
--CALL SIGN "JACK"



**LARRY LYNX**  
SUPER-JINX  
--CALL SIGN "JOKER"



**GEOFFREY  
ST. JOHN**  
TRAITOR AND  
IXIS APPRENTICE

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# UNSUNG HEROES' PART ONE

**SOLMERCA**

HOW'S IT  
HANGING,  
BUDDY?

F-F-FINE! ARE  
W-W-WE THERE  
Y-Y-YET?

The

# BIG GUNS!

IT'S  
BEGINNING  
TO FEEL LIKE  
I SPEND MORE  
TIME HERE  
THAN IN MY  
OWN TIME-  
LINE...

IAN  
FLYNN  
WRITER

TRACY  
YARDLEY!  
PENCILS

JIM  
AMASH  
INKS

STEVE  
DOWNER  
COLORS

JACK  
MORELLI  
LETTERS

YARDLEY!  
& DOWNER  
COVER

VINCENT  
LOVALLO  
ASSISTANT  
EDITOR

PAUL  
KAMINSKI  
EDITOR/  
EXEC. EDITOR

VICTOR  
GORELICK  
ED-IN-CHIEF

MIKE PELLERITO-PREZ / THANKS TO ANTHONY GACCIONE & CINDY CHAU AT SEGA LICENSING

... BUT IF IT MEANS  
SAVING EVERYONE,  
I'LL DO WHATEVER  
IT TAKES!

**SILVER THE  
HEDGEHOG**  
--CALL SIGN  
"ACE"  
TIME-  
TRAVELER

BEN BATES - SKETCH VARIANT COVER



"EVEN JOIN THESE  
"SECRET FREEDOM  
FIGHTERS"!!

HOURS EARLIER,  
AT SECRET H.Q....

...AND OUR INFORMANT  
ON THE COUNCIL SAYS ST.  
JOHN IS BOUND FOR SOU-  
MERCA. WE MUST KNOW  
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT  
THAT NAUGUS WOULD  
SEND HIS ERRAND BOY  
SO FAR FROM HIS  
SIDE.

HARVEY WHO  
DIRECTOR OF  
THE S.F.F.

AGENT ACE WILL LEAD THE TEAM  
TRACKING ST. JOHN AND SECURE  
A TRACKING DEVICE SO WE KNOW  
HIS MOVEMENTS IN THE FUTURE.  
AGENT KING WILL LEAD THE  
TEAM TO INVESTIGATE NAUGUS.

REMEMBER: ANONYMITY IS YOUR  
FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE, SO USE  
YOUR CALL SIGNS AT ALL TIMES.

ANY QUESTIONS?

ER...  
MORE LIKE  
A REMINDER...

I REMEMBER OUR DEAL.  
WHILE YOU'RE AWAY, I WILL  
BE GOING OVER YOUR NOTES  
AND WILL IDENTIFY THE  
"TRAITOR" YOU'RE HUNT-  
ING FOR. YOU SCRATCH  
MY BACK, I SCRATCH  
YOURS.

R-RIGHT.

JUST  
MAKING  
SURE.



WINDY VALLEY--  
SOLMERCA

THAT'S OUR  
TARGET'S  
AIRBOARD.

I GUESS HE'S  
BELOW.

OKAY! THIS  
IS GOING TO  
BE RISKY.

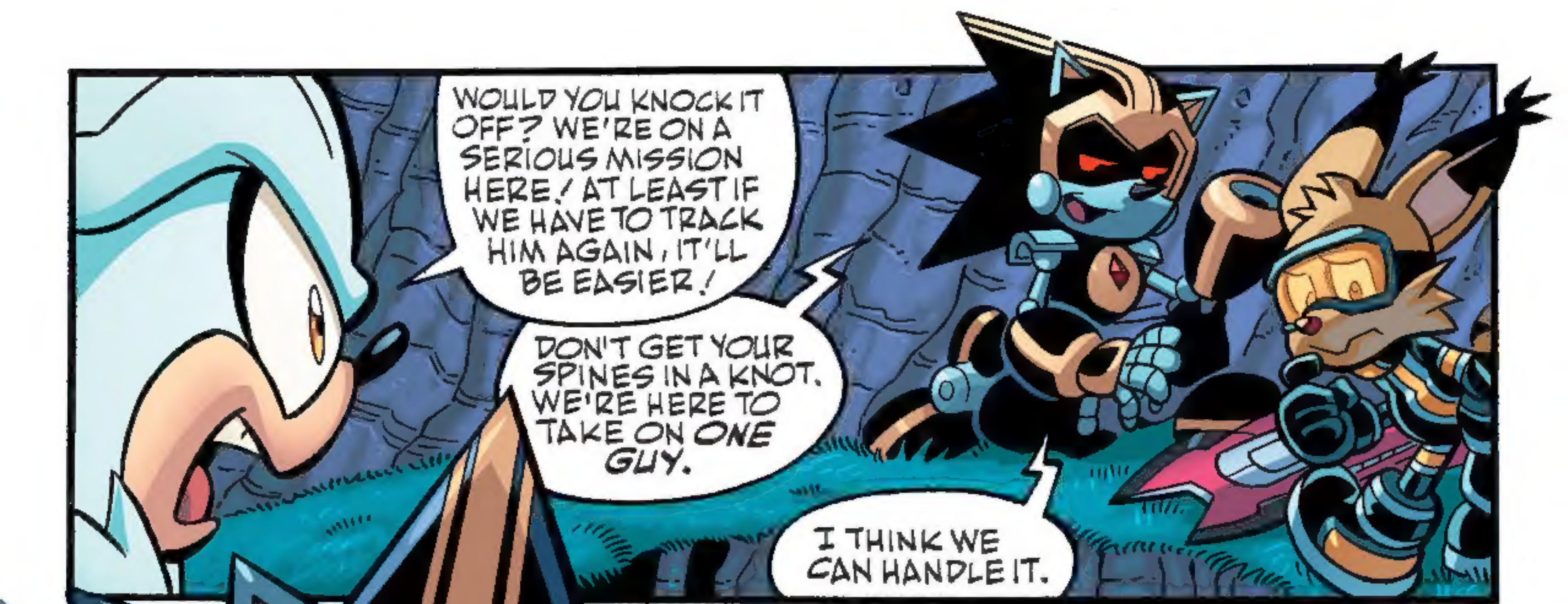
STAND  
BACK!

KLIK

Whew!

THERE! TRACKER  
ATTACHED! OH, MAN,  
THAT WAS SO  
DANGEROUS  
AND HARD!





WOULD YOU KNOCK IT OFF? WE'RE ON A SERIOUS MISSION HERE. AT LEAST IF WE HAVE TO TRACK HIM AGAIN, IT'LL BE EASIER!

DON'T GET YOUR SPINES IN A KNOT. WE'RE HERE TO TAKE ON ONE GUY.

I THINK WE CAN HANDLE IT.



I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY TRAPS...

SHARD--CALL SIGN "JACK" REFORMED METAL SONIC



...BUT THAT'S A LONG WAY DOWN!

I'LL LOWER US TO THE BOTTOM, THEN.

HOW ABOUT "NO"? YOUR POWERS SHORT-OUT ELECTRONICS, AND IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I'M A ROBOT.

IT'S HOW I USE THEM. AND MY POWERS ARE SILENT. YOUR ROCKETS WOULD GIVE US AWAY.

AND WE'RE TRYING TO BE SUBTLE!

AUGH!

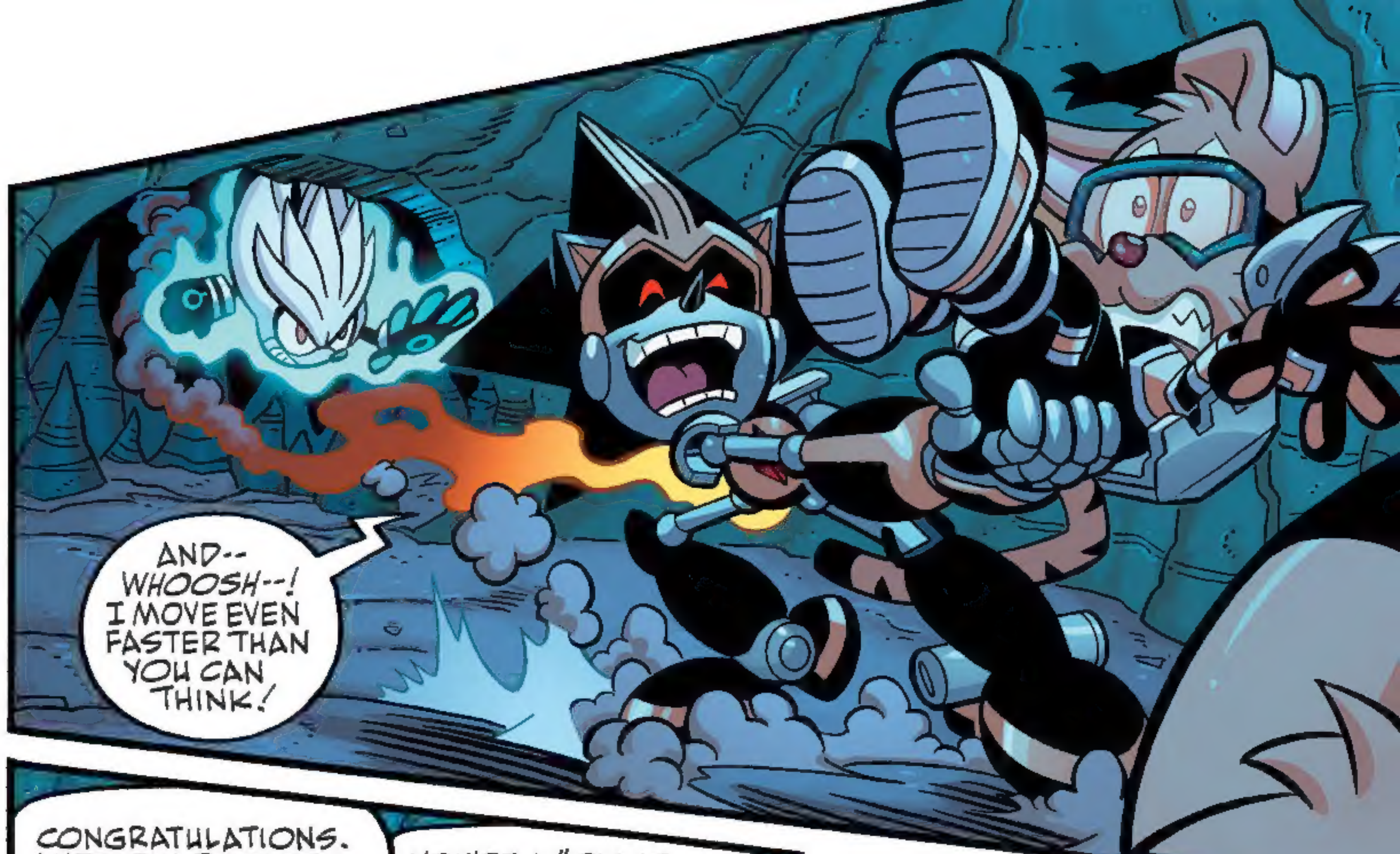
LARRY LINX--CALL SIGN "JOKER" SUPER-JINX



AAAAAIIIEEE







CONGRATULATIONS.  
AND NOW, BETWEEN  
HIS SCREAMING  
AND YOUR ENGINE,  
ST. JOHN WILL  
KNOW WE'RE  
HERE.!

YOU'RE A "GLASS  
HALF-EMPTY" TYPE OF  
GUY, AREN'T YOU?

WHY  
WOULD  
YOU  
BUILD  
A DEATH  
TRAP THAT  
LEADS INTO  
A DEATH  
TRAP?

TO KEEP  
THIS PLACE  
A SECRET  
FROM  
EVERY-  
ONE...

STEP  
BACK,  
BUD.

YOU'VE  
TRIPPED  
ENOUGH  
TODAY.

I'M SORRY!  
I DON'T REALLY  
HAVE FULL CONTROL  
OVER MY JINXES.



ABOUT THAT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND. DO YOU HAVE POWERS LIKE ME?

NOT EXACTLY.

BAD STUFF JUST... HAPPENS AROUND ME. SOMETIMES I CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN TO THE ENEMY, OTHER TIMES...

"THINGS JUST SEEMED TO KEEP FALLING APART. MY TEAM HAD DISBANDED... I TRIED TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, BUT MY BALLOT BOX SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTED. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF, UNTIL...

LARRY?!  
LARRY?!

I'M SORRY! THE TARGETING SYSTEM WENT HAYWIRE FOR SOME REASON!

GYAH!

"...TURNED INTO GREAT LUCK!"

OH! H-HELLO, THERE! UM... LET ME EXPLAIN...

hmm... NO.

ALLOW ME.

WHUMP

"...A BIT OF BAD LUCK..."

LARRY LYNX, CORRECT? FORMER FIELD LEADER OF THE SUBSTITUTE LEGION?\*

Mmm... TELL ME, SON, WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE THIS CITY SAFE AGAIN?

Y-YES, SIR. BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO REMEMBER THAT.

I BELIEVE I COULD USE SOMEONE WITH YOUR UNIQUE TALENTS.

\*SONIC SELECT VOL. 1



SO THE DIRECTOR  
DECIDED TO SEND  
YOU-- SOMEONE  
WHO CAUSES  
RANDOM THINGS  
TO GO WRONG--  
ON SENSITIVE  
SPY MISSIONS?

COUGH I KNOW WHO THE  
TRAITOR IS! COUGH  
'SCUSE ME WHILE I LEAP  
TO CONCLUSIONS IN A  
SINGLE BOUND! COUGH

HACK  
COUGH

Ahem!

THE DIRECTOR  
IS HELPING ME  
WITH THAT.

I KNOW HE  
IS, HOT-SHOT.

HE'S ALSO  
GIVING ME  
AND LARRY  
A SECOND  
SHOT WITH  
HIS LITTLE  
SPY TEAM.

MIGHT WANT TO  
KEEP THAT IN MIND  
SINCE THIS IS  
YOUR-- WHAT?  
--FOURTH?

HEY!  
I'M TRYING  
TO SAVE YOUR  
TIME-PERIOD!

AND  
LARRY'S BEEN  
FIGHTING FOR IT  
SINCE BEFORE  
YOU WERE  
BORN!

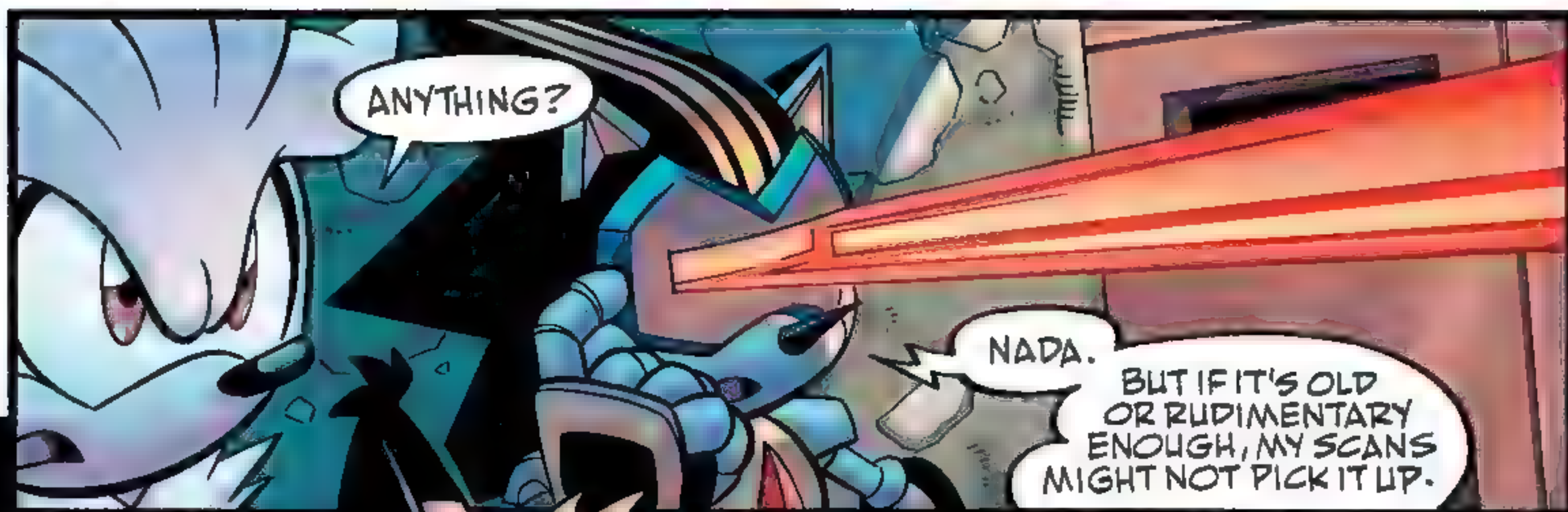
THAT'S  
BECAUSE I'M  
FROM THE  
FUTURE!

HEY  
GUYS?

ACE? JACK?  
WE'VE GOT  
SOMETHING  
UP AHEAD.

NOPE. NOT  
SUSPICIOUS  
AT ALL.









TRAP!!

TING

TING

TING

TING



# RUMMBLE

SOMETHING SET  
OFF THE FIRST ROUND  
OF TRAPS...

AND I'M THE  
FIRST BLOKE TO  
STEP FOOT IN  
HERE IN  
CENTURIES...

SOMEHOW, I  
DOUBT THAT'S  
A COINCIDENCE.

BETTER  
MOVE QUICK  
SO I SEE THEM  
BEFORE THEY  
SEE ME.

GEOFFREY ST. JOHN  
SPY & IXIS APPRENTICE

WHAT EVER  
HAPPENED TO A  
GOOD OL' FASHIONED  
PIT OF SPIKES?

THE BALLS  
HAVE SPIKES.

HOW IS  
ANYONE SUPP-  
POSED TO GET  
PAST THAT?!

THEY'RE  
NOT, UNLESS  
THEY HAVE  
SKILLS LIKE  
NAUGUS.

BUT MY POWERS  
CAN HOLD THEM  
ALL IN PLACE,  
SO WE CAN...

YEAH...

BUT THE  
ONES IN  
THE PIT  
DIDN'T  
MOVE.

HOLD THAT  
THOUGHT. SUPERIOR  
TECHNOLOGY COMIN'  
THROUGH.

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM



**CHANK**

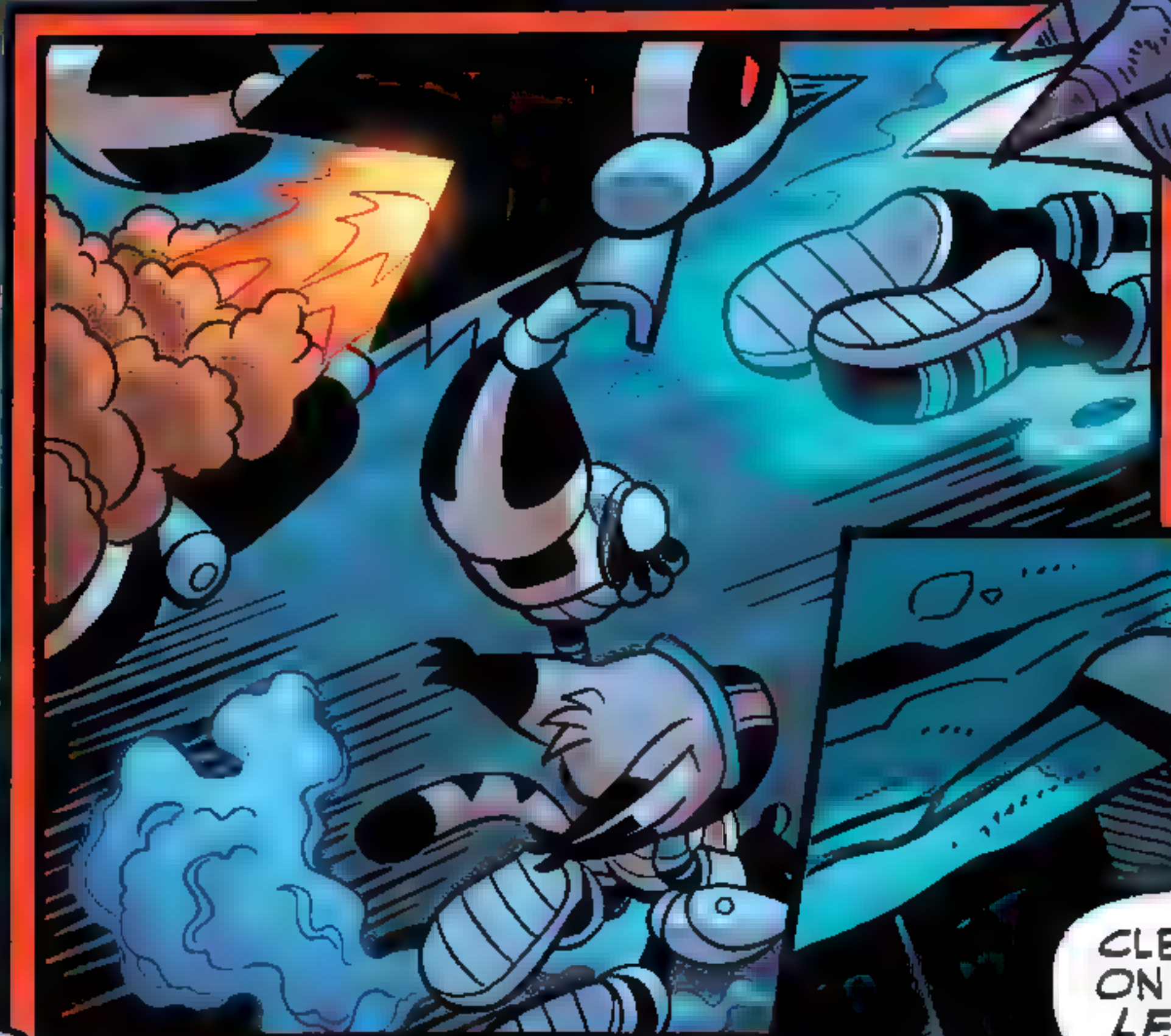
**KRASH**

JUST MAKING  
YOUR JOB EASIER,  
ACE.

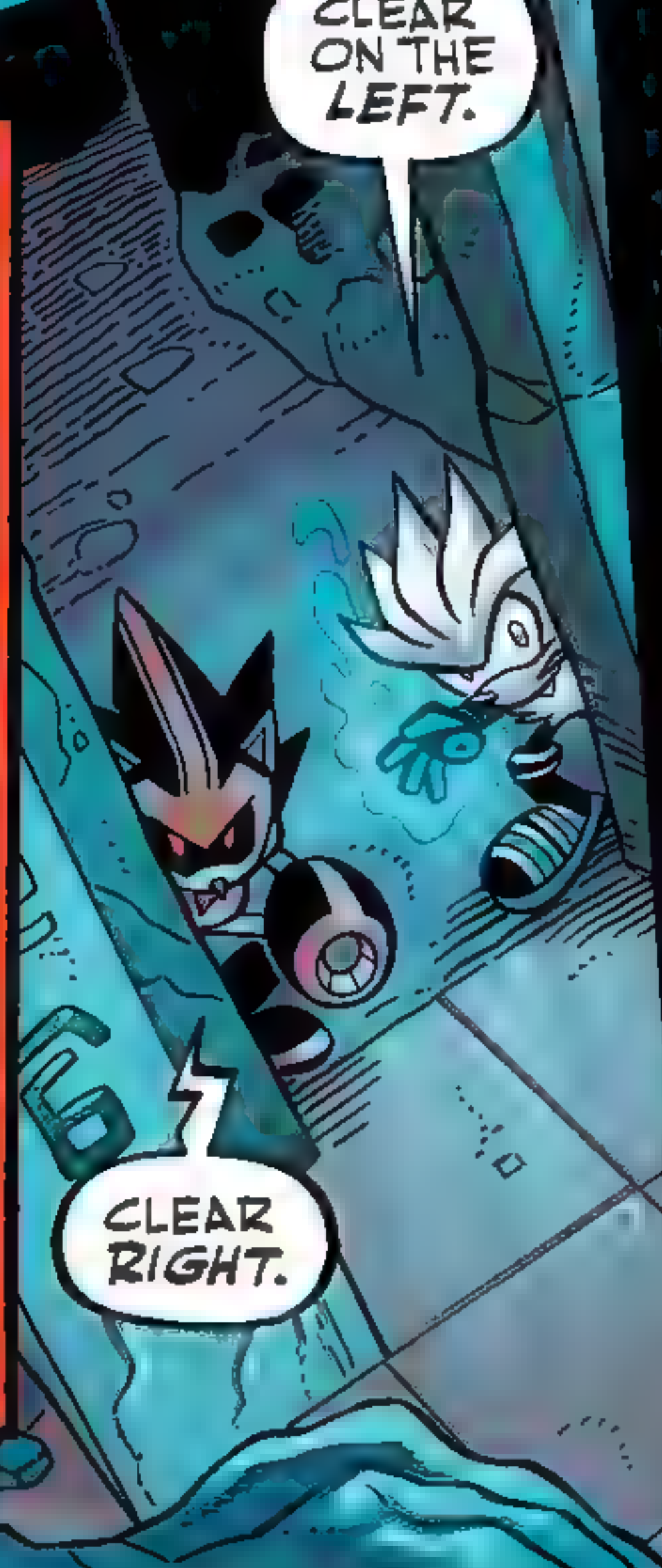
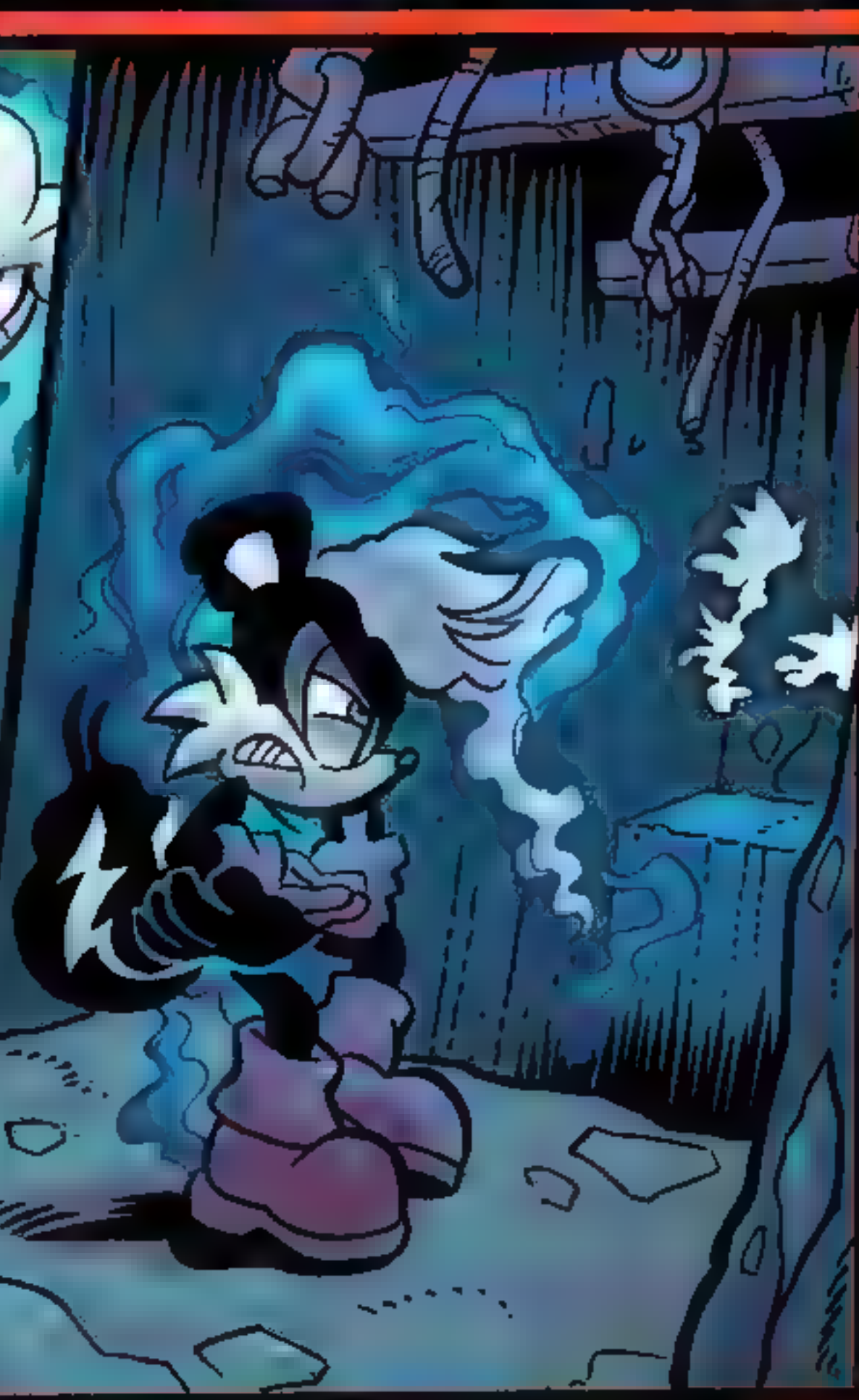
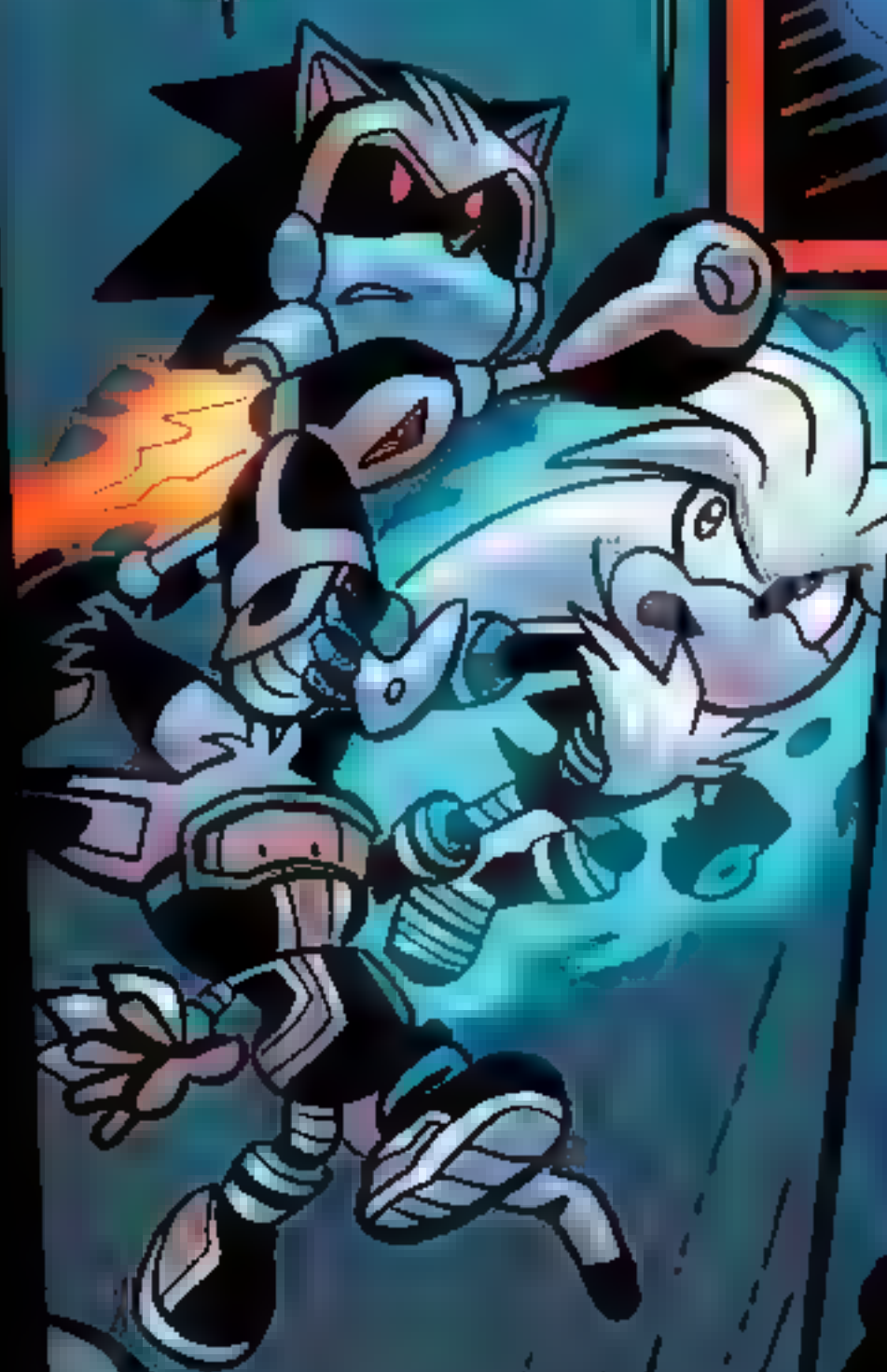
BLOWING  
THINGS UP  
AND ALERT-  
ING OUR  
TARGET  
DOESN'T  
HELP,  
JACK.

MEH.

WE BLEW  
THAT ANGLE  
OF THE  
MISSION A  
HALFWAY  
AGO.



CLEAR  
ON THE  
LEFT.



CLEAR  
RIGHT.



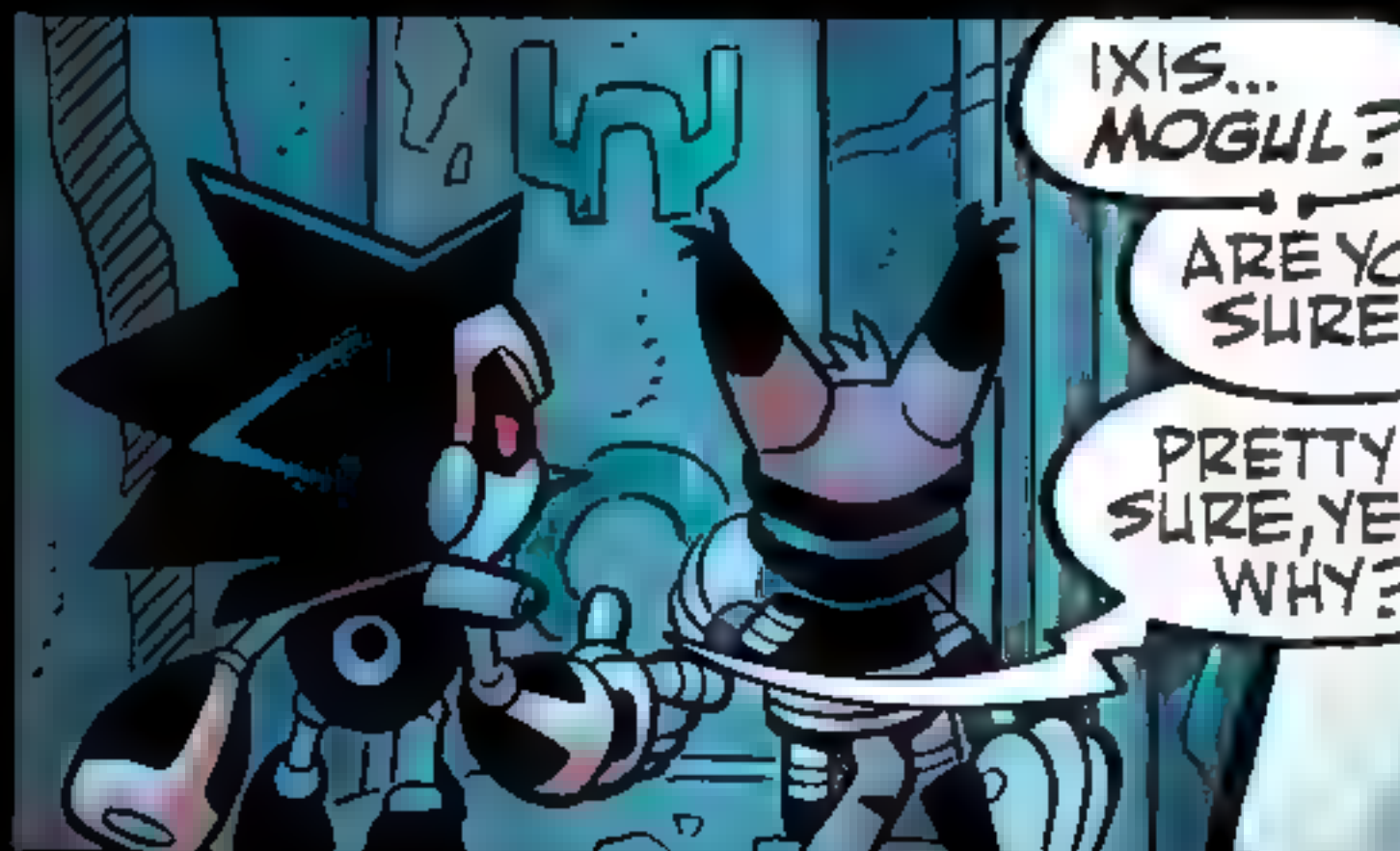


THAT LOOKS LIKE WRITING. CAN YOU MAKE OUT WHAT IT SAYS?

SEEMS LIKE A DEAD LANGUAGE. RUNNING A CROSS-REFERENCE.



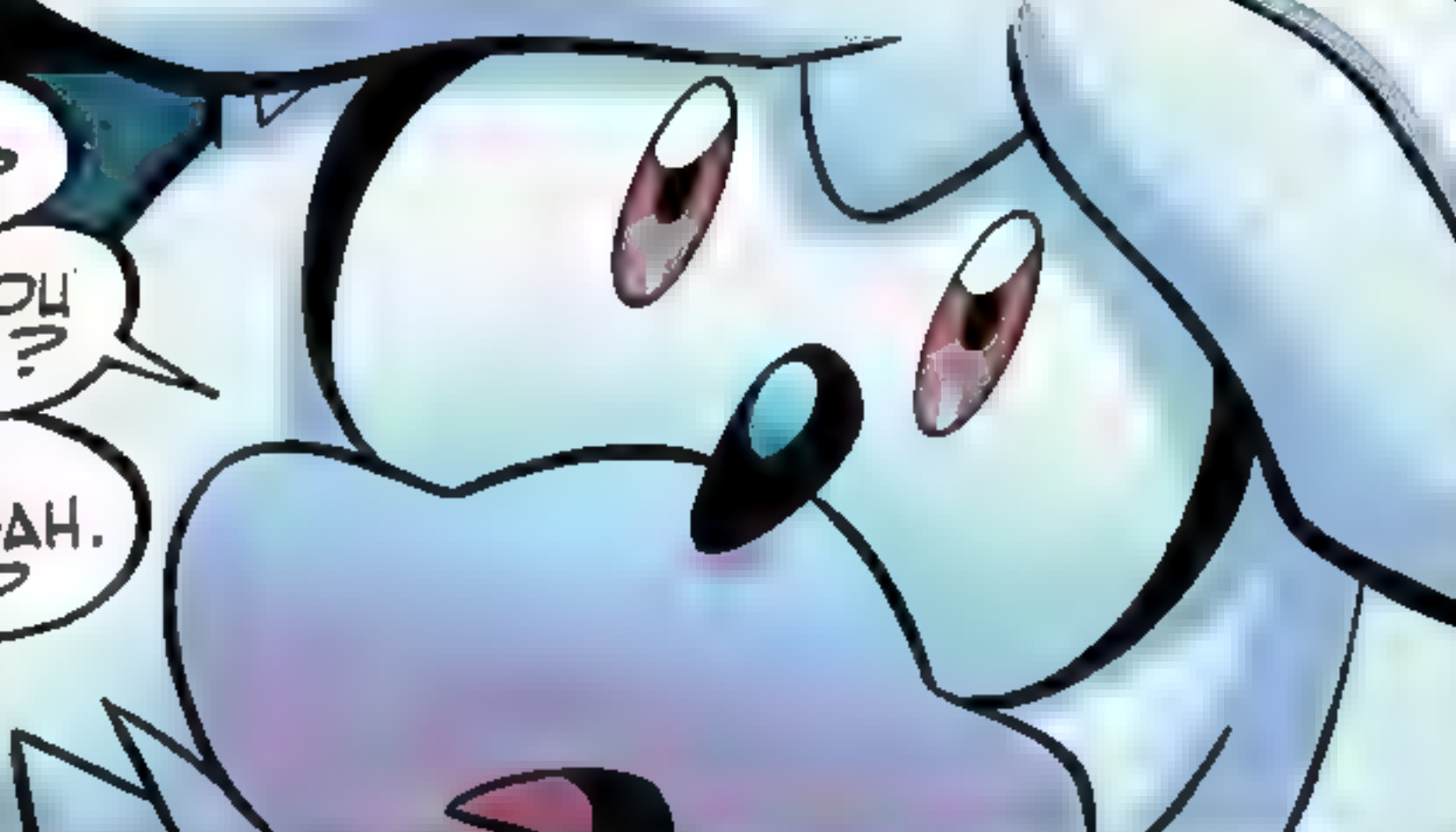
OKAY, I THINK IT SAYS: THIS IS THE CRYPT OF IXIS VALE, ONE OF IXIS MOGUL'S FOUR ELITE."



IXIS... MOGUL?

ARE YOU SURE?

PRETTY SURE, YEAH. WHY?



UH... NO REASON.

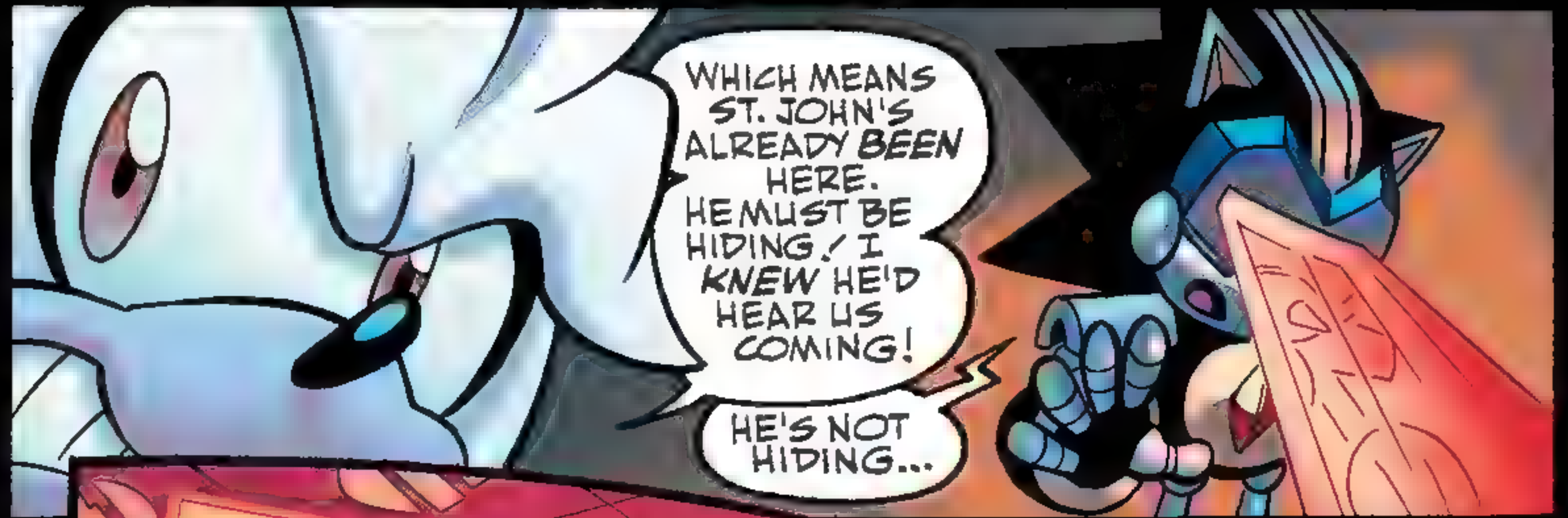
SURE. "NO REASON!"

IF THIS IS A CRYPT, WHERE ARE THE REMAINS? THIS IS JUST A ROOM.



IT SAYS VALE'S REMAINS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE RIGHT HERE.

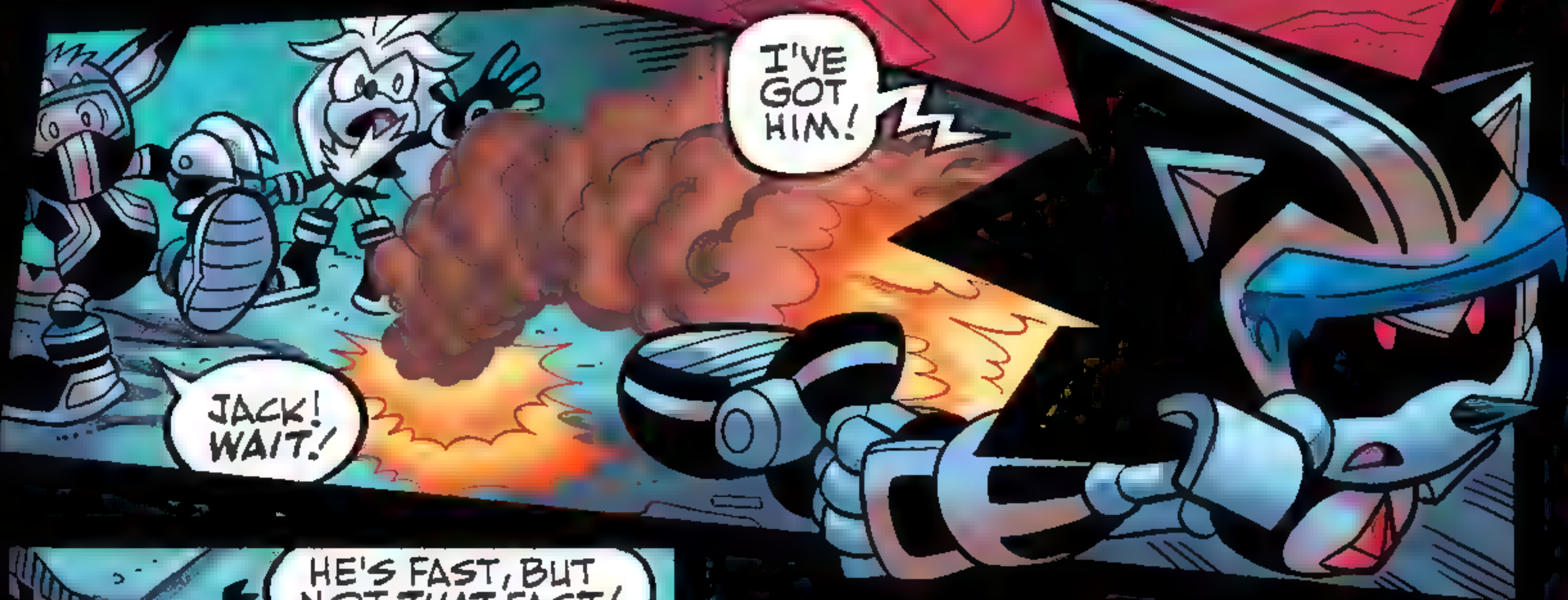




WHICH MEANS  
ST. JOHN'S  
ALREADY BEEN  
HERE.  
HE MUST BE  
HIDING. I  
KNEW HE'D  
HEAR US  
COMING!

HE'S NOT  
HIDING...

...HE'S ALREADY  
GONE. I GOT  
FRESH TRACKS!



I'VE  
GOT  
HIM!

JACK!  
WAIT!



HE'S FAST, BUT  
NOT THAT FAST!

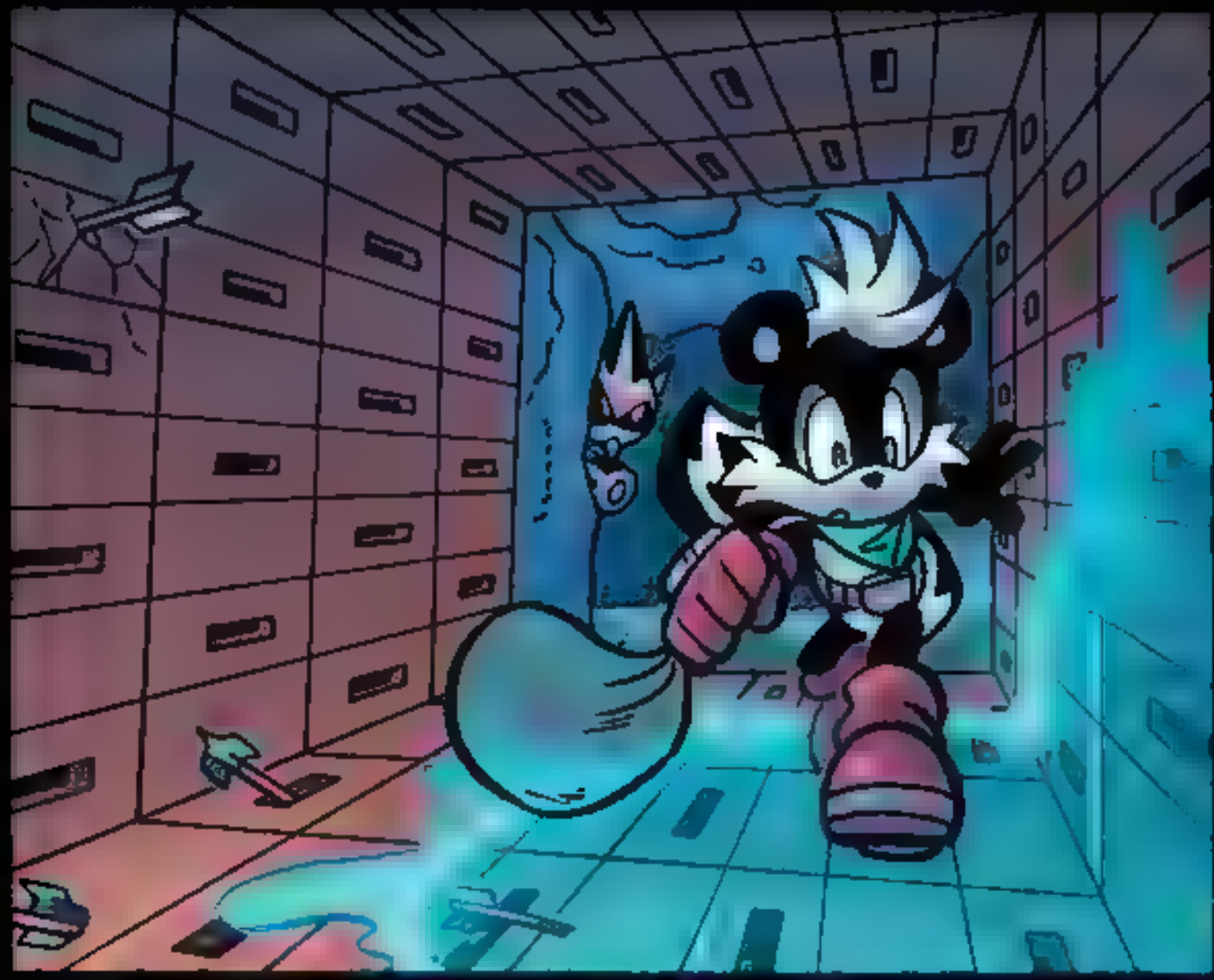
THEN WE NEED  
A SHORT CUT.  
HE MUST'VE  
SLIPPED  
RIGHT PAST  
US, SO IF WE  
CAME IN HERE,  
AND THEN THE  
PASSAGE LEADS  
LIKE SO...



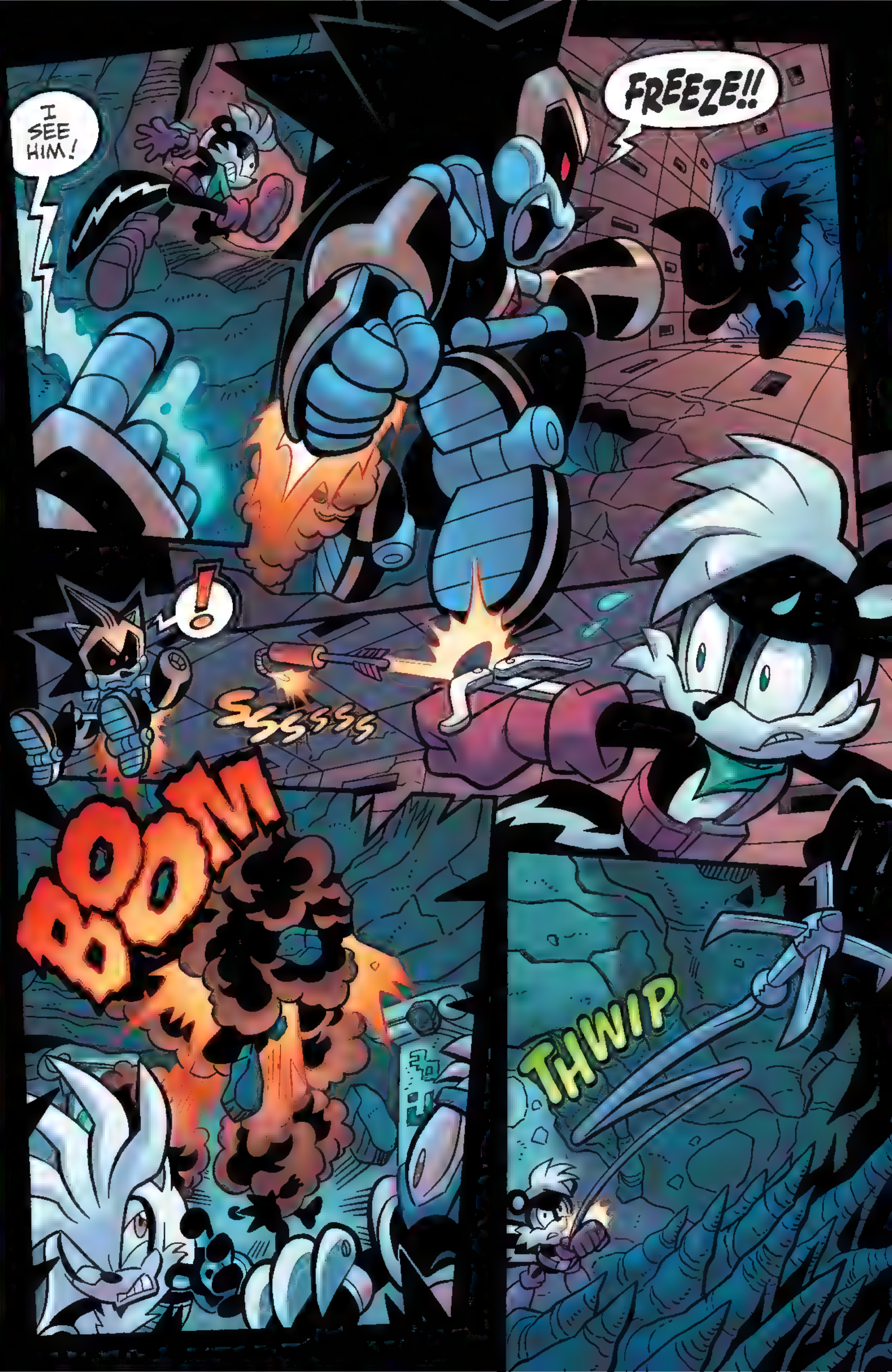
...THAT PUTS  
HIM ABOUT  
THERE!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?









I SEE HIM!

FREEZE!!

BOOM!

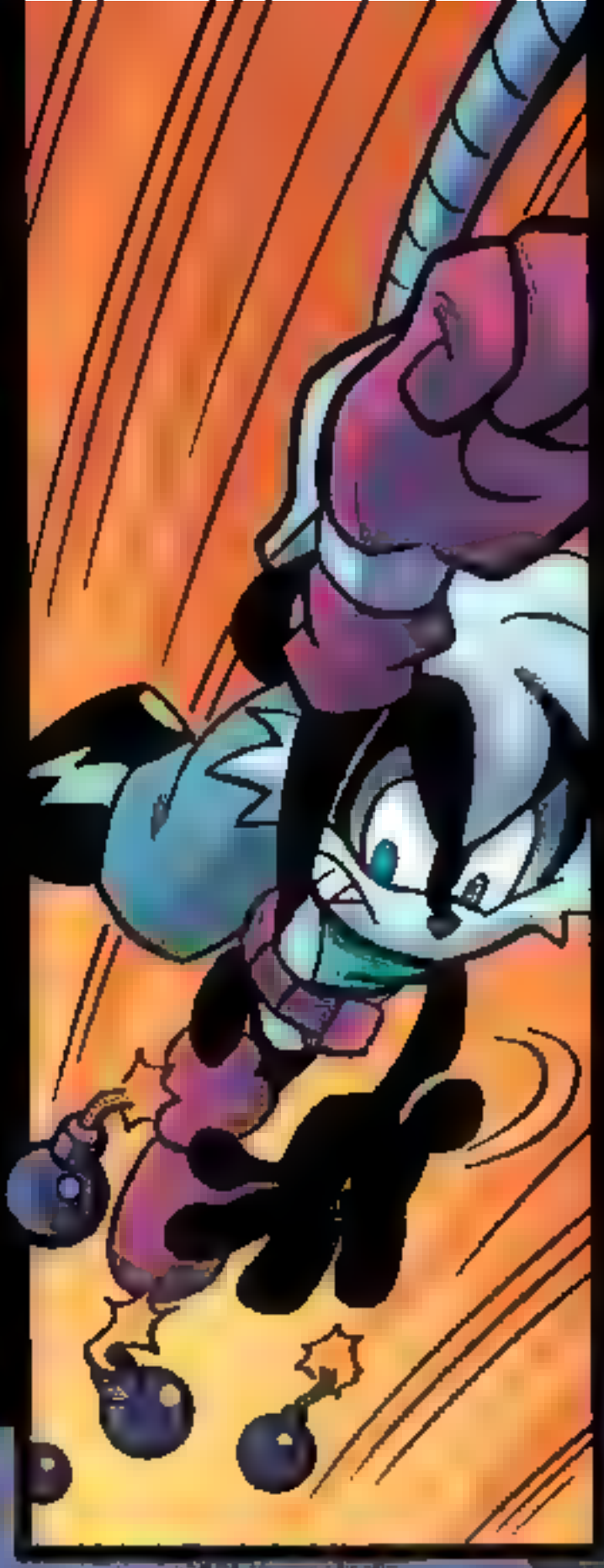
THWIP





ARE YOU OKAY?!

HAVE I EVER MENTIONED HOW MUCH I HATE BEING BURIED ALIVE?



BOOM  
RUMBLE

I WON'T LET YOU GET AW--  
AHH!!



≡GASP!≡ OVERDID IT  
A TAD ≡GASP!≡ WITH  
THE MAGIC ≡GASP!≡

≡PANT!≡ THAT  
WAS TOO CLOSE!  
≡PANT!≡



I DON'T KNOW  
WHO THOSE BLOKES  
WERE... BUT I'M  
GLAD I WON'T HAVE  
TO FACE THEM  
AGAIN...







URGH...  
YOU GOT THAT,  
ACE?

Y-YEAH...  
I'VE GOT  
IT FOR  
NOW...

GOOD.  
'CAUSE I DUNNO  
IF I MENTIONED  
IT, BUT I REALLY  
HATE BEING  
BURIED ALIVE.

ONCE IS  
ENOUGH.

AUTO-REPAIR IS  
KICKING IN. JUST  
CAN'T PUSH MY  
POWER CORE  
RIGHT NOW.

WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU? YOU  
REALLY GOT  
SMASHED UP.

AND DON'T JINX  
ANYTHING RIGHT  
NOW, OKAY?

JUST... SIT HERE  
QUIETLY AND THINK  
NON-JINXY  
THOUGHTS.

OKAY...

IF I START DIGGING A  
TUNNEL OUT, IS THAT  
GOING TO DESTABILIZE  
THINGS TOO MUCH FOR  
YOU TO  
HANDLE?

N-NO...  
GO FOR  
IT.

AT LEAST WE  
GOT THE TRACKER  
ON THE AIRBOARD.

I HOPE  
THE OTHER TEAM  
IS DOING  
BETTER...



MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY FROM  
SILVER AND HIS TEAM...

WHAT THE--?  
THERE WASN'T A  
BRANCHING  
PATH HERE  
BEFORE!




HE'S  
RESHAPING  
THE CAVE  
TO TRAP  
US!

SPLIT UP!  
STICK TO ONE  
WALL, AND DOUBLE-  
BACK IF YOU HIT A  
DEAD END!

WHY DID YOU  
HAVE TO SAY  
"DEAD  
END"...







≡PANT!≡

≡PANT!≡

≡PANT!≡

YOU CANNOT  
HIDE, INTRUDERS!  
THERE IS **NO**  
**ESCAPE!**

**T**HINGS SEEM TO BE GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE! CHECK BACK NEXT TIME FOR ELIAS' TEAM'S MISSION--WHICH MAY BE THEIR LAST! FOR MORE GREAT **SECRET FF** ACTION, CHECK OUT CURRENT ISSUES OF **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**!



# MY SONIC UNIVERSE™ FAN ART



**Reggie G.**  
from Canada

## FAN FUNNIES!



Mitchell M. from Canada

**Jaelen M.**  
from Georgia



**Shandarrah M.**  
sent to [sonic@archiecomics.com](mailto:sonic@archiecomics.com)

## HEY, KIDS!

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## OFF PANEL

## THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JONATHAN GRAY INKS: GARY MARTIN COLORS: ALEAH BAKER

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COMING SOON!  
NEXT ISSUE: 42



## UNSUNG HEROES PART II

THE UNDER COVER CHAOS  
CONTINUES IN...

SECRET FREEDOM  
PART 2 (of 4)

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 07/24/12!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: 238



## THE FIGHT RAGES ON!

SONIC BETTER STEP ON IT, OR  
ELSE LUPE IS LIKELY TO GET  
LEGIONIZED IN...

"LOYALTY PART 2"  
ON SALE THE WEEK OF 07/10/12

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'  
Hello I'm Jada and I love Sonic Universe. I've been reading ever since the Silver Saga started and I'm the biggest Tracy Yardley fan! So can you give him a big hug from me?

Jada T.  
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

*How about a well-deserved high five? NOW THAT--that I can do!*

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'  
Given the current look of ads for this series, am I to understand that, as I write this, at the end of Scrambled, Sonic Universe is now halfway through its life cycle and we can all look forward to 3 & 1/2 more years of it?

John S.  
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

*Hiya, John! I do believe you're referring to the designated "blank" spots on the SU arcs ad! Well, you'll be happy to know that Sonic Universe only has a life-cycle as long as you fans keep reading! So hopefully 3 1/2 years from now, we'll need to re-evaluate the look of that ad!*

Dear 'My Sonic

Universe,'  
Just recently started collecting and reading the Sonic Comics.

*Welcome welcome!*

I was not aware of their existence in their original run in the 90s, and I must say I like them a lot. I've started collecting and reading the Archives from the very beginning, but I've run into a bit of a snag.

*Uh-oh...*

I'm sure you've heard this question a million times before, but it's new to me. Why aren't the Sally and Tails Mini Series in any of the Archives or Collections? I'm not buying these comics as collector's items, but as reading material. I'm missing out on huge chunks of the story, and the editors notes in the main comic series reference the miniseries quite frequently, frequently enough that I've stopped reading the main storyline entirely until I can get my hands on at least Princess Sally's and Tails' miniseries stories.

*Ah yes, I too faced this problem when trying to read-through the entire Sonic series! Fear not, the Sally and Tails mini-series will BOTH be collected in upcoming volumes*

*of the Sonic Select Graphic Novel series! So there!*

What I really don't want to do is hunt up an expensive original edition and devalue it by removing it from its plastic wrapping and thumbing through it while reading it. That's what the Archives are for, right?

*Right!*

Anyway, if you have heard this question a million times before, I'm sure you have a stock answer prepared. Or maybe, the million-and-first question will be enough to convince you it might be a good idea. Either way, I await a reply.

Sincerely,  
New Comic Fan  
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

*And a reply ye shall receive!*

*And that, faithful Sonic comic fans, concludes the letters column to our RECORD-SETTING 41st issue of Sonic Universe!*

**SEE Y'ALL NEXT MONTH!**

*And thanks to all you fans out there who keep this series going strong!*

## IT'S YOUR SONIC UNIVERSE!

We want your input! Write & tell us what you're likin', lovin', or what's leaving you in the dust! Remember, include "My Sonic Universe" in the subject line on your letter or e-mail! It's your Sonic Universe, after all, so drop us a line!